

Since the Office Action made the rejection of the pending claims final, consideration of this response pursuant to the expedited procedure for response after final rejection set forth at 1059 OG19-20 respectfully is solicited.

* * *

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

A “Clean” copy of the claim(s) as amended is presented below. A “Marked-Up” copy is appended to this response.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the raising of the permeability of the cell membranes of erythroblasts in the hematological sample to the nucleotide fluorescent dye in step (ii) comprises the steps of:
 - (i) admixing a first reagent fluid of hypotonic osmolarity containing a buffer for maintaining pH within an acidic range to the hematologic sample after step (i) thereby raising the permeability of the erythroblast cell membranes to the nucleotide fluorescent dye; and
 - (ii) admixing thereto a second reagent fluid containing a buffer for neutralizing the first reagent fluid in the hematologic sample mixture and adjusting the pH of the mixture to an alkaline range of 5.0-11.0, thereby creating a condition suitable for staining the nuclei of the erythroblasts and an osmolarity compensating agent for adjusting the osmolarity to about 300 to 1000